

Remarks

Claims 1, 8, 9, and 18 are currently amended. Claims 19 to 22 have been added. Claims 1 – 22 are pending.

Support for the amendments is found at page 9, line 3. Support for new claims 19 and 21 is found at page 16, lines 3-31 and Figures 5a and 5b.

§ 112 Rejections

Claims 8 and 18 were rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention.

Applicants have amended claims 8 and 18 to make clear that first and second lengths of tape are applied to a glass surface.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the above rejection of claims 8 and 18 be withdrawn.

§ 102 Rejections

Claims 1-7 and 9-17 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Reed (US 4,246,058). The Patent Office asserts in part that: Reed discloses a method of applying tape to a surface including the steps a) providing a tape having a backing, an adhesive on the backing, and wherein the tape is on a liner, b) cutting the tape to provide a first length of tape, a second length of tape, and a removable portion of tape between first and second lengths of tape, (c) removing the removable tape from the liner, d) separating the first length of tape from the liner, and e) applying the first length of tape to the surface. The Patent Office further asserts in part that Reed discloses: separating the second length of tape and applying it to the surface; in Figures 1 and 11 where both first and second ends of the removable portion 20 has curved portions (corners) which are oblique; and the subject matter of claims 9-17.

In claim 1, Applicants now claim a method of applying a tape to a surface comprising steps a) through e) as claimed wherein the tape provides a simulated beveled, etched, or grooved appearance when applied to a glass surface. Claim 9 has also been similarly amended.

Reed discloses a method of making labels where the labels are die cut and the matrix material (the excess material between the labels) is mechanically disturbed using an embossed roll. The disturbance of the matrix area is said to make the matrix area more cleanly removable and prevents blocking of the label stock. The labels are made from a laminate of a label material, adhesive, and a liner.

Reed is silent on types of label material and does not mention any material that would provide a simulated beveled, etched, or grooved appearance when applied to a glass surface. For at least this reason, Reed cannot anticipate the inventions claimed in claims 1 and 19 as now claimed. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the above rejection of claims 1-7 and 9-17 be withdrawn.

§ 103 Rejections

Claims 7 and 17 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reed (US 4,246,058). The Patent Office asserts in part that Reed does not specifically recite that such labels contain indicia (decoration) but that it is conventional to have indicia on tape which is later die cut into labels such that the print can be registered with labels correctly.

As discussed above, claims 1 and 9 have been amended to include that the tape provides a simulated beveled, etched, or grooved appearance when applied to a glass surface. Reed does not teach or suggest such a tape. For at least this reason, Reed cannot render claims 7 and 17 obvious. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the above rejection of claims 7 and 17 be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 8 and 18 have been indicated as allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, above, and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

New Claims

New claims 19 and 21 claim a method of applying a tape to a substrate wherein the tape is cut at an oblique angle relative to the length of the tape. Reed does not disclose or suggest the cutting of a label at an angle (where two lines intersect at a point) or an oblique angle. Rather, Reed discloses cutting labels having arcuate or curved corners. For at least this reason, Applicants believe that claims 19-22 are also allowable.

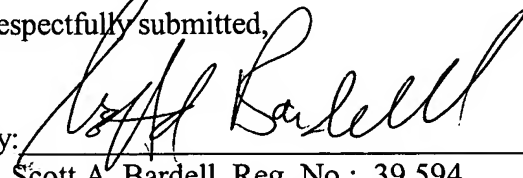
In view of the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Allowance of claims 1-22, as amended, at an early date is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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